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## Fifth Committee

**Summary record of the 57th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 29 March 2000, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman:* Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions*: Mr. Mselle

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 169: Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor** (*continued*) (A/54/775 and A/54/802)

**Agenda item 173: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor** (*continued*) (A/54/769 and A/54/804)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) (A/54/775), which provided information on the budget performance of UNAMET for the period from 5 May to 30 November 1999. A provision of $92,465,500 had been approved for that period; however, actual expenditure had totalled only $81,342,200, inclusive of in-kind voluntary contributions, leaving an unencumbered balance of $11,123,300. Details of those amounts were provided in the annexes to the report. The total provision of $92,465,500 had consisted of three elements: an appropriation of $54,428,400 under General Assembly resolution 54/20, commitment authority of $28,037,100 under the same resolution and additional commitment authority of $10 million granted by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In its resolution 53/240 of 29 June 1999, the General Assembly had decided that the amount to be assessed for UNAMET would be determined after the review of the performance report and taking into account voluntary contributions received. Such contributions had totalled $43,834,700 in cash and $7,110,900 in kind. In view of that amount and of the unencumbered balance, the Secretary-General was requesting an additional appropriation of $26,913,800 and an assessment of $23,241,600. The table in paragraph 9 of the report showed how those amounts had been calculated.

2. He then introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) (A/54/769). He recalled that he had requested and received the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to enter into commitments of $50 million for start-up costs, as had been reported in document A/54/236/Add.1. By its resolution 54/246, the General Assembly had authorized commitments of $200 million. The current report contained the full budget for UNTAET for the period from 1 December 1999 to 30 June 2000, which amounted to $386,341,400 gross. Table 1 and annex I provided details of the cost estimates, while table 2 provided a breakdown of the human resources required. The staffing requirements, which were described in chapter IX, were divided among the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Governance and Public Administration and the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Rehabilitation. Organization charts for those offices were provided in annex III.

3. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the Advisory Committee's report on UNAMET (A/54/802). In sum, expenditure for UNAMET had totalled $81,342,200 gross, of which $50,945,600 had come from extrabudgetary sources, leaving a balance of $30,396,600 to be funded from assessed contributions. The General Assembly had already assessed an amount of $7,155,000 gross; that left a balance of $23,241,600 gross. The Advisory Committee recommended the assessment of that amount, as indicated in paragraph 8 of its report.

4. He then introduced the Advisory Committee's report on UNTAET (A/54/804), which contained detailed comments and recommendations on the estimates for the Mission for the period ending 30 June 2000. Specific budgetary recommendations on the estimates were summarized in paragraphs 42 and 43. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate $350 million for UNTAET and that that amount should be assessed on Member States. The basis for that level of resources was explained in detail in the body of the Advisory Committee's report. The General Assembly had already authorized the commitment and assessment of $200 million. The Advisory Committee was satisfied that the additional assessment of $150 million which it was recommending would be adequate for the Mission up to the end of June 2000. For the reasons stated in the report, it was also recommending that the estimates for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 should be submitted for consideration in September 2000 and that a progress report should be submitted in May 2000 so that it could report to the General Assembly on additional resources for the Mission pending the

examination of the estimates for the next financial period.

5. **Mr. Brito** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, said that he was concerned about the late submission of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNTAET. He commended the Fifth Committee and the other United Nations entities that had played a proactive role in ensuring the fulfilment of the Mission's functions, and appreciated the commitment of those Member States that strongly supported the reconstruction of East Timor.

6. UNTAET had a very wide, important and complex mandate, since it must ensure security and maintain law and order throughout East Timor while also taking responsibility for establishing basic structures of public administration, developing essential public services and coordinating all humanitarian activities. The people of East Timor were struggling to meet their basic needs. Unemployment was widespread and the educational system and other social and public services had been disrupted. The many East Timorese who were currently in refugee camps in West Timor must be given the highest priority. Some 80 per cent of the population of East Timor was currently without viable means of support.

7. UNTAET must be given adequate resources to fulfil its mandate, and effective communication must be established with the population. He looked forward to the second pledging conference on East Timor, which would take place in Lisbon in June, and urged those countries which had announced pledges at the Tokyo conference to make their contributions available as soon as possible. With respect to the report of the Advisory Committee (A/54/804), he took note of the observations it contained, and hoped that the Secretary-General would provide further information on the issues raised in paragraphs 24 to 26. The European Union concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should authorize an appropriation of $350 million, inclusive of the $200 million authorized by its resolution 54/246, and should authorize an additional assessment of $150 million.

8. **Mr. Fox** (Australia), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, said that he strongly supported UNTAET. With respect to the reference, in the Secretary-General's report, to the provision of rent-free office space in Darwin (A/54/769, annex I, para. 13), he pointed out that that accommodation was being provided by the government of the Northern Territory, not the Government of Australia, and that the Secretariat should not assume that the rent-free arrangement would continue. Contingency arrangements should therefore be built into the current and future UNTAET budgets.

9. The Advisory Committee raised a number of concerns in its report, including some concerns about performance data and estimates, and was recommending a budget of $350 million, in contrast to the Secretary-General's proposed budget of $377 million net. Although the lack of data was not surprising, given the newness of the Mission, he encouraged UNTAET to refine the information on its requirements for the next report. It was his understanding that the recommendations contained in paragraphs 43 and 44 of the Advisory Committee's report would not preclude the submission, by the Secretariat, of a progress report in May on the resources needed for the period from July to December 2000; he asked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to confirm that understanding. He supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the funding of UNTAET up to 30 June 2000.

10. Since the Mission's activities were to lay the foundations for an independent administration by the people of East Timor, he urged the Mission to give priority to the employment and training of local staff. In view of continuing law enforcement concerns, he supported the Advisory Committee's suggestion that top priority should be given to the quick and full deployment of civilian police. He welcomed the broad international support provided to UNTAET, as shown by the fact that, in terms of the military component alone, 32 countries had contributed personnel. Although the international donor community had also responded generously to the needs of East Timor, only 65 per cent of the $200 million appropriated by the General Assembly in December 1999 had been received by 21 March 2000. He urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions to UNTAET and other missions as soon as possible, and urged countries to ensure the full and prompt payment of

their pledges to the UNTAET Trust Fund. Lastly, he supported the Secretary-General's request for an additional appropriation of $26 million for UNAMET, which would enable the Secretariat to close the books for that mission.

11. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that her Government commended the Secretary-General's untiring efforts to find a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor and that it fully supported the challenging mandate of UNTAET. Norway supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that $350 million should be appropriated for the period from 1 December 1999 to 30 June 2000, as well as its recommendation that the number of National Professional Officers and United Nations Volunteers should be increased. Norway had noted with interest the Advisory Committee's comments on coordination between UNTAET and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions and non-governmental organizations (A/54/804, paras. 36 to 39). It was essential that East Timorese people should be placed at the core of the process to promote national participation and ownership.

12. The adverse economic and social conditions in East Timor, such as high unemployment rates and high prices, were threatening social stability. Security must be fully ensured and the remaining refugees must be allowed to return to their homes in a safe and orderly manner. In addition to providing support to East Timor through various United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, Norway had contributed $1 million to the Trust Fund for the Settlement of the Question of East Timor, and had recently decided to contribute 4 million kroner to the UNTAET Trust Fund, for a total contribution of $1.2 million. It encouraged other donors to make the necessary financial commitments and to ensure the early disbursement of those amounts.

13. **Ms. Siti Hajjar** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN attached great importance to the provision of adequate funding to enable the Secretary-General to discharge his responsibilities under Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) and General Assembly resolution 54/20. In principle, ASEAN could go along with the recommendation contained in paragraph 42 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/54/804); however, it sought assurances that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would not have an adverse impact on the effective implementation of the mandate of UNTAET or on the number and level of posts proposed by the Secretary-General, which ASEAN fully supported. ASEAN also supported the Secretary-General's request for an additional appropriation of $26,913,800 and assessment of $23,241,600 for UNAMET. It was important that the Fifth Committee should take an early decision on the financing of UNTAET and UNAMET.

14. **Mr. Wharton** (United States of America) said that his delegation fully supported the goals and objectives of the peacekeeping operations in East Timor and the recommendations of ACABQ.

15. The staffing table in chapter IX of the Secretary-General's report (A/54/769) showed that a total of 148 General Service staff, 21 at the principal level, were being assigned to UNTAET. The General Assembly had repeatedly requested that the numbers of General Service staff in peacekeeping operations should be reduced and replaced where feasible with local personnel, as a cost-cutting measure. He asked why the number of General Service personnel for the new mission was so high and what the Secretariat would do in future to identify General Service posts for conversion to local posts.

16. He requested clarification of why shipping costs for contingent-owned equipment had been budgeted at $19.1 million, whereas the equipment itself had been estimated at only $16.3 million (A/54/769, annex I). He would also like to know how the vehicles for the operation would be procured, and whether they would be obtained under a "systems contract", thereby lessening the cost to the Organization.

17. **Ms. Sun Minqin** (China) said that her delegation shared the views expressed by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN. It supported the recommendations of ACABQ, and hoped that the civilian police would soon be deployed. Adequate funding was needed in order to carry out the mandate of the Security Council.

18. **Mr. Hassan** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group of 77 agreed with the recommendations of ACABQ contained in its reports on UNAMET (A/54/802) and UNTAET (A/54/804), and looked forward to receiving progress reports from the Secretariat in due course.

19. **Mr. Yeo** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that the Division had submitted a maintenance budget for UNTAET for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 based on the same operational parameters as the current budget. The forthcoming review by the Secretary-General of the security situation could have an impact on the military component of UNTAET, but it most likely would not be available before late June, after the end of the second part of the resumed session.

20. With regard to the comment from the representative of Australia on the assumption of continued rent-free office space in Darwin, the Division had had no information to the contrary when it had prepared the budget. If the office space were not provided, it would realign the budget accordingly.

21. The representative of Malaysia had requested assurances that the ACABQ recommendations would not adversely affect the implementation of the UNTAET mandate, as well as the number and level of posts. The ACABQ had recommended a reduction of some $30 million in the estimates. Because of slippage in deployment and updated assumptions regarding rations, the estimates had already been reduced by $20 million. Posts and levels would be reviewed, but the ACABQ recommendations had left a measure of flexibility and discretion to the Secretariat regarding staffing, and he did not foresee any adverse effect on the Mission.

22. **Mr. Medili** (Director, Field Administration and Logistics Division) said that the Advisory Committee had recommended that top priority should be given to the deployment of civilian police, and he was pleased to report that over 1,000 had now been deployed, a marked improvement. Regarding the concern at the high numbers of General Service staff and the suggestion that East Timorese should be employed and trained, it was currently not possible to recruit enough staff in East Timor to meet the requirements of the Mission. The number of General Service staff was commensurate with the local labour market and the tasks to be performed, and they would assist in the training of East Timorese staff. As the situation developed and training intensified, replacement of General Service with East Timorese staff would be a priority.

23. As for the cost of contingent-owned equipment versus the cost of transportation, those costs represented partial costs of units not currently in the theatre, especially engineering units with heavy equipment. The figure of $16.3 million for equipment only reflected costs up to 30 June 2000. He noted that while contingent-owned equipment was a one-time expenditure, reimbursement for such equipment under leasing arrangements would be ongoing. Concerning procurement of vehicles, because right-hand drive was required, the systems contract in place could not be used, and procurement was therefore proceeding on an ad hoc basis.

24. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had requested a progress report in May so that it could report to the General Assembly in May on the level of resources required for the period 1 July-December 31 2000.

**Agenda item 175: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (A/54/808 and A/54/813)

25. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (A/54/808). By its resolution 1291 (2000), the Security Council had decided to expand MONUC to consist of up to 5,537 military personnel. However, it had left to the Secretary-General the decision as to when such personnel should be deployed. Currently, it appeared that the deployment would take place within four to six months. In view of the logistical challenges posed by the Mission and of the fact that funds assessed on Member States were not always immediately forthcoming, the Secretary-General was requesting commitment authority with assessment of $200 million to begin the preparatory work for the Mission. A full report on the Mission's budget up to the end of June 2000 would be submitted to the General Assembly in September 2000.

26. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of MONUC (A/54/813). The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's request for the commitment and assessment of $200 million for the Mission. In that connection he drew attention to the other comments and

recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Advisory Committee's report.

27. **Mr. Ramos** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania and Turkey, expressed concern at the late submission of the reports to the Committee, which had limited the time available for study by delegations. The European Union strongly supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to bring lasting peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It concurred with his view that, in order for a United Nations peacekeeping mission to be effective, it would need adequate financial resources. While the full resource requirement for the Mission was yet to be determined, the formidable tasks envisioned for the United Nations under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement required adequate preparation and financial support. The wide scope of the mandate of MONUC included monitoring implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement and investigating violations of the ceasefire, maintaining continuous liaison with all field military headquarters, facilitating humanitarian assistance and developing and carrying out emergency mine action activities.

28. The European Union commended the Secretary-General for his report and concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should authorize him to enter into commitments with assessment for MONUC in an amount not exceeding $200 million.

29. **Mr. Fox** (Australia), also speaking on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that those delegations strongly supported the request for commitment authority with assessment for $200 million; the Mission marked an important step forward in the peace process and should be provided with resources enabling it to fulfil its mandate. The Secretary-General, in his report to the Security Council on the preliminary deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/1999/790), had noted the size of the Mission, the complexity of its tasks and the requirement for adequate preparation. A full assessment for the amount requested would improve the ability of the United Nations to fulfil the mandate before it.

30. **Mr. Wharton** (United States of America) affirmed his delegation's full support for the goals of MONUC. In order to see peace and stability return to the Congo, United Nations resources devoted to that purpose must be used to their maximum effect. His delegation would like assurances that the use of the resources was being properly planned.

31. The amount requested by the Secretary-General, and endorsed by ACABQ, appeared high. His delegation understood that the requested amount would cover the period through September 2000, a little over six months. It was also aware from the reports before the Committee that currently there were only 103 military personnel, supported by 97 civilian personnel, in the area, a fraction of the 5,537 military and civilian staff authorized. The rest would be deployed in phases when conditions of adequate security existed and when parties to the Ceasefire Agreement had given firm, credible assurances of cooperation.

32. His delegation would like to know when it could be expected that those conditions would have been achieved and what the deployment schedule would look like. It would like to hear from the Secretariat if the full $200 million was likely to be spent over the coming six months.

33. It appeared overly optimistic to assume that the full $200 million in assessments would be needed, when conditions did not currently exist for large-scale deployment over a short period of time. The better course might be to agree to the Secretary-General's request for the $200 million commitment authority, but to provide a lower amount of assessments, perhaps $160 million, which should meet the needs of the operation until the situation could be reassessed in September.

34. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that her delegation strongly supported the Secretary-General's efforts to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Although the full resource requirements of MONUC were yet to be determined and its full deployment was subject to political, military and logistical constraints, the enormous task of the United Nations in the Congo required adequate financial support. Norway thus supported the proposal to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to $200 million, including the $41 million already authorized by ACABQ.

35. The peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was crucial both to the country itself and to lasting peace and development in the Great Lakes region. Therefore her Government had decided to make a financial contribution of $1.2

million to the Trust Fund in support of the peace process and the mediation efforts of the facilitator for political dialogue and the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

36. **Mr. Daka** (Zambia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. His Government attached great importance to the financing of MONUC, given the role it had played and would continue to play in the peace process. It fully supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations. Although deployment was uncertain, his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that preparations must be made for the Mission.

37. He thanked those Member States that had assisted the Joint Military Commission, based in Lusaka, the only existing body able to monitor deployment. Once MONUC was deployed it was expected that the Commission would move to Kinshasa and work jointly with MONUC to implement the peace process.

38. **Mr. Mazemo** (Zimbabwe) said that the Organization's failure to rapidly deploy the Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to monitor the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement was placing severe strain on the Agreement. The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been neglected for too long and must now be treated as a matter of priority. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments with assessment to meet the most immediate anticipated requirements of MONUC. It also supported the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/54/813).

39. **Mr. Strucka** (Czech Republic), joined by **Mr. Rudzitis-Pinnis** (Latvia), **Mr. Theophylactou** (Cyprus) and **Mr. Basmajiev** (Bulgaria), said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

40. **Mr. Bouhadou** (Algeria) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments with assessment in an amount not exceeding $200 million to meet the most immediate anticipated requirements of MONUC. It also endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the related report of the Advisory Committee.

41. **Ms. Sun Minqin** (China) said that China fully supported the efforts being made to achieve peace in Africa and believed that MONUC had an important role to play in the maintenance of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her delegation therefore supported the deployment of the Mission and endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with assessment, in an amount not exceeding $200 million to cover the initial operational requirements of MONUC.

42. **Mr. Park Hae-yun** (Republic of Korea) said that the mandate of MONUC was vital to the establishment of peace and stability in the region and the Mission should therefore be provided with adequate resources for its effective deployment. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments with assessment to meet the Mission's most immediate anticipated requirements.

43. **Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo** (Uganda) said that, like all other United Nations peacekeeping operations, MONUC must be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate, which was to restore peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region. His delegation was deeply concerned at the delay in deploying the Mission. The absence of peace and security was no reason for delay, since peacekeeping operations were never needed in places where peace prevailed. Concerning the amount of the commitment for which authority was being sought, no one acquainted with the size of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the situation in the territory would question the amount requested by the Secretary-General. Indeed, to do so would set a dangerous precedent for future peacekeeping operations. The Committee should rely on the judgement of the Secretary-General, which was based on the facts on the ground.

44. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the statements made by the representatives of Algeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Egypt attached great importance to the Mission, which should be provided with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure its success. It therefore supported the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/54/813).

45. **Mr. Yusuf** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation shared the views just expressed by the representative of Uganda. The conditions which the Security Council had laid down for the deployment of the Mission would be impossible to satisfy, since the parties to the Ceasefire Agreement would never give firm and credible assurances concerning adequate security and cooperation. But it was precisely because the situation was not normal that troops were needed. No such assurances had been required in the case of other United Nations peacekeeping missions, such as the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Every effort should be made to avoid the appearance of a double standard. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments with assessment to meet the most immediate anticipated requirements of the Mission.

46. **Mr. Ekorong A Ndong** (Cameroon) supported the statement made by the representative of Uganda. His delegation, too, was concerned at the conditionalities that had been attached to the deployment of the Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with assessment, in an amount not exceeding $200 million, to cover the Mission's initial operational requirements.

47. **Mr. Kandanga** (Namibia) said that his delegation attached great importance to the prompt deployment of the Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Secretary-General's request for commitment authority in the amount of $200 million was based on his assessment of the situation on the ground. His delegation therefore found very disturbing the proposals that had been made to arbitrarily reduce that amount and urged all delegations to support the Secretary-General's request.

48. **Mr. Yeo** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division), in response to the representative of the United States, said that the amount of $200 million sought by the Secretary-General had been neither overstated nor unreasonable. While he could not give precise details of how the money would be spent, the Secretariat had a good idea of the broad areas of expenditure. The Secretary-General had also made the request in order to set the wheels in motion for Member States to pay their contributions, since it usually took about three months before the first assessed payments were received. The amount of $200 million was inclusive of the $41 million gross that had already been authorized by the Advisory Committee.

*The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.*